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# SOME LOCAL QUESTIONS FOR HYPERBOLIC SYSTEMS WITH NON-REGULAR TIME DEPENDENT COEFFICIENTS

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## Abstract

In this note we investigate local properties for microlocally symmetrizable hyperbolic systems with just time dependent coefficients. Thanks to Paley-Wiener theorem, we establish finite propagation speed by showing precise estimates on the evolution of the support of the solution in terms of suitable norms of the coefficients of the operator and of the symmetrizer. From this result, local existence and uniqueness follow by quite standard methods.

Our argument relies on the use of Fourier transform, and it cannot be extended to operators whose coefficients depend also on the space variables. On the other hand, it works under very mild regularity assumptions on the coefficients of the operator and of the symmetrizer.

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## 1 Introduction

In the present paper, we deal with linear first order hyperbolic systems with time dependent coefficients:

$$(1) \quad Lu(t, x) = \partial_t u(t, x) + \sum_{j=1}^n A_j(t) \partial_j u(t, x),$$

where the time variable  $t \in [0, T]$ , for some  $T > 0$ , and the space variable  $x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ . Our main concern is to establish finite propagation speed and other local properties for operator  $L$ , under minimal assumptions on the regularity of its coefficients and symmetrizer.

Several physical models can be described, from the mathematical viewpoint, by hyperbolic problems with variable, and especially non-smooth, coefficients. It is well-known that this lack of regularity may affect the evolution of the system, producing pathological phenomena already at the linear level.

This is the case e.g. for scalar wave equations

$$(2) \quad Wu(t, x) := \partial_t^2 u(t, x) - \sum_{j,k=1}^n \partial_j \left( a_{jk}(t, x) \partial_k u(t, x) \right),$$

which were extensively studied so far. Among various papers, here we quote [2], [7], [8], [19]. All works highlighted that, under very low regularity assumptions on the coefficients of the operator, the solution loses smoothness in the time evolution, and it becomes more and more irregular when the time goes by. In particular, this phenomenon has drastic consequences in the ( $L^2$  or  $C^\infty$ ) well-posedness of the Cauchy problem, which can be recovered only admitting a loss of a finite number of derivatives. In addition, it makes impossible to capture observability and controllability properties of the operator in a classical sense, and these notions have to be revisited in order to take into account the loss of regularity. Finally, counterexamples show that, for too irregular coefficients, the loss of derivatives can be infinite, precluding any possibility of recovering well-posedness or observability, even in a weak sense.

We refer to [3]–[4] (concerning the well-posedness theory) and [10]–[21] (concerning observability and control of waves) for an overview about this topic and for further references, as well as for some recent progress in these directions.

Moreover, we recall that similar phenomena were put in evidence also for transport equations; the literature on the subject is vast, and still evolving. We refer e.g. to Chapter 3 of [1] and the references quoted therein for more informations about this topic.

As for first order hyperbolic systems

$$(3) \quad Pu(t, x) = \partial_t u(t, x) + \sum_{j=1}^n A_j(t, x) \partial_j u(t, x),$$

the analysis from the point of view of the minimal smoothness hypotheses is much more recent. On the other hand, as it is well-known, this context presents some important differences with respect to the case of scalar wave equations.

The most relevant one is that one needs an extra hypothesis about *microlocal symmetrizability* of the system. Roughly speaking, this means that there exists a scalar product (say)  $S$ , depending both on  $(t, x)$  and on the dual variable  $\xi \neq 0$ , with respect to which the operator becomes self-adjoint, and then “classical” energy estimates work. For example, strictly hyperbolic systems, or more in general hyperbolic systems with constant multiplicities, are microlocally symmetrizable (at least for regular coefficients, see also the discussion below), because they are smoothly diagonalizable.

The dependence of  $S$  on  $\xi$  is usually assumed to be very smooth (i.e.  $C^\infty$ ), while various regularity hypotheses can be considered with respect to the time and space variables: accordingly, one speaks about bounded (or continuous, or Lipschitz, and so on) symmetrizer.

By a result of Ivriř and Petkov (see [13]), the existence of a bounded microlocal symmetrizer is a necessary condition for the Cauchy problem for  $P$  to be well-posed in  $C^\infty$ . As for sufficient conditions, the question is still widely open; the main feature to point out is that regularity hypotheses are needed *both* on the coefficients of the operator in (3) and on the symmetrizer  $S$ .

In [15] (see Chapter 7), Métivier proved  $L^2$  well-posedness for  $P$ , if the  $A_j$ ’s and the symmetrizer are supposed to be Lipschitz continuous both in time and space. In particular, such a result extends Friedrichs theory for symmetric systems (see e.g. [11]–[12]), which can be recovered in the special instance of  $S$  independent of the dual variable  $\xi$ . On the other hand, the same author showed in [16] that Lipschitz regularity of  $S$  in all its variables (then also in  $\xi$ ) is enough for  $L^2$  well-posedness to hold, if the coefficients of the operator enjoy additional smoothness (namely,  $W^{2,\infty}$ ) in  $(t, x)$ .

Below the Lipschitz threshold, things go worse and we have to remark that a loss of derivatives produces during the time evolution of the system, in a similar fashion to what is known for

the wave operator (2). This allows one to recover just  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  well-posedness, with a finite loss of derivatives: this is the case of work [6], where the loss is proved to be linearly increasing in time, for coefficients and symmetrizer which are log-Lipschitz continuous both in  $t$  and  $x$ . Moreover, explicit counterexamples establish the sharpness (if one measures regularity just by the modulus of continuity) of the Lipschitz and log-Lipschitz assumptions both on the  $A_j$ 's and  $S$ , for the  $L^2$  and the  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  well-posedness respectively. These counterexamples are constructed in [16] and in [9]; in this last paper, just time-dependent coefficients are considered, like in the case of operator  $L$  defined in (1) at the beginning of the introduction.

Still for the case of operator  $L$ , in [5] we considered Zygmund and log-Zygmund type assumptions. For reasons which will appear clear in a while, we dismissed the hypothesis of microlocal symmetrizability of the system, and we supposed  $L$  to be hyperbolic with constant multiplicities.

Zygmund hypotheses are somehow second order conditions, made on the symmetric difference of the function rather than on its modulus of continuity, and they are weaker than the corresponding ones formulated on the first difference. The special issue is that they are still suitable for well-posedness of hyperbolic Cauchy problems, with the same kind of loss which would pertain to the latter conditions: so, for pure Zygmund hypothesis one recovers well-posedness in any  $H^s$  with no loss of derivatives, while log-Zygmund hypothesis entails a finite loss, which depends on time. This picture is very similar to what was already obtained in the case of scalar wave equations (2) by Tarama, see paper [19] (see also [3] and [4] and the references therein). There, the main point was to compensate the worse behaviour of the coefficients by introducing a lower order corrector in the definition of the energy, in order to produce special algebraic cancellations in the energy estimates.

For first order systems, the strategy adopted in [5] was the same: indeed, knowing *a priori* the existence of a microlocal symmetrizer is out of use in this context, and the main challenge was to build up a suitable microlocal symmetrizer, in a slightly weaker sense. In particular, the construction is just local in  $(t, \xi)$ , and one has to forget about global regularity in  $\xi$ . Such a fact makes some points unclear, or at least less straightforward, in the analysis of first order hyperbolic systems, when assumptions of Zygmund type are formulated. We will come back to this issue later on.

Among all the above mentioned works, just a few devoted attention to finite propagation speed and other local questions. In order to establish these results, a classical approach is based on convexifications arguments, combined with a global  $L^2$  well-posedness result.

This strategy was adopted in [16] for operator (3) with Lipschitz coefficients and symmetrizer. A crucial point, there, was to show that the assumed hypotheses are invariant by change of variables, and in particular of the timelike direction. Then, finite speed of propagation and local uniqueness follow; in addition, the previous property allows for a sharp description of propagation of the supports, like in [14] and [17]. Remark that the results in these last papers still require some regularity assumptions on the coefficients, besides asking *a priori* a local uniqueness property at any spacelike hypersurface.

The same scheme is followed also in [6] for operator  $P$  with log-Lipschitz coefficients, which admits a symmetrizer which is log-Lipschitz in  $(t, x)$ , smooth in  $\xi \neq 0$ . Regularity in  $\xi$  is a key ingredient, since the well-posedness issue (with a finite loss of derivatives) exploits paradifferential calculus in a fundamental way. Moreover, there many efforts are devoted to giving sense to the local Cauchy problem, due to the loss of derivatives in the energy estimates (a difficulty which was already encountered in [8] for wave equations).

Nonetheless, one has to remark that, due to the hypotheses on the regularity of coefficients and symmetrizers, the previous results do not apply to all the possible cases: in particular, the instance of operator (1) with Zygmund and log-Zygmund coefficients is not covered. Moreover, it is important to point out that in [2], for the scalar wave operator  $W$  with just time dependent coefficients, local questions were investigated supposing very weak regularity assumptions, i.e. essentially  $a_{jk} \in L^1([0, T])$  only.

Motivated by the previous considerations, in the present paper we focus our attention on the case of operator  $L$  defined in (1): we want to address local questions under the angle of minimal regularity assumptions for the coefficients of the operator and its symmetrizer. Referring to previous works, like e.g. the above mentioned [16]–[6], we have to say that our analysis applies to operators with just time dependent coefficients, and hence, in particular, we also lose the invariance by change of coordinates. On the other hand, our main result, on finite propagation speed, have the advantage of asking for very low regularity hypotheses, and to go below the Lipschitz (or log-Lipschitz) threshold.

Our method of investigation is strongly inspired by the analysis of [2] for the scalar operator (2). It is based on fine estimates on the growth of the solution in the Fourier variable and on the application of Paley-Wiener theorem. We claim no special originality about the techniques of the proof. As said above, the interest of our study is the very mild smoothness which it requires: basically, either continuity in time of the  $A_j$ 's, or global continuity of  $S$  on  $[0, T] \times \mathbb{S}_\xi^{n-1}$ , where  $\mathbb{S}_\xi^{n-1}$  denotes the unitary sphere in the  $\xi$ -variable. We refer to Subsection 2.1 and Theorem 3.1 for the precise formulation of our hypotheses.

The point is that we will be content to estimate the evolution of the support of solutions in a larger functional framework, namely in the space of analytic functionals. Thanks to this, finite speed of propagation is proved for a wide class of data (see Theorem 3.1). After that, we will establish a local theory in the spaces of analytic functionals and functions (see Section 4). In order to recover corresponding results in finer functional settings, more regularity has to be imposed, of course: we will not detail this part here, since it would present no special novelties compared to the analysis of [2].

We remark that our hypotheses are still stronger than the ones in [2] for wave equations, but, as already pointed out, the case of first order systems and of wave equations are very different from each other. On the other hand, in analogy with [2], we will see that it is still the  $L^1([0, T])$ -norm of the coefficients which enters into play in the propagation of the support of the initial data.

Finally, we point out that the analysis presented here does not apply straight away to operators  $L$  with coefficients in Zygmund classes. As a matter of fact, it is true that this regularity in time is much more than the one demanded in the present paper. But in the Zygmund case one misses a unique global symmetrizer, for which, then, smoothness in  $\xi$  fails to hold; in fact, we do not even have a true symmetrizer for our system, but just a family of approximate symmetrizers. For this reason, the adaptation of the present analysis to operators (1) with Zygmund coefficients would require some other modifications, which go beyond the scopes of the present paper: we will devote to it a different study.

Before going on, we give here a brief overview of the paper.

In Section 2 we present our general working setting and hypotheses; we also state some preliminaries and well-known results, which we will exploit in a fundamental way in our study. Section 3 deals with finite propagation speed property in the class of analytic functionals; namely, we will state and prove the main result of the paper (see Theorem 3.1). Thanks to this outcome, in Section 4 we will develop a local theory in the classes of analytic functionals and functions.

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## Notations

We introduce here some notations which will be freely used in the text.

Let the field  $\mathbb{F}$  be  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ , and fix a number  $n \geq 1$ . Let  $u$  be a function defined on  $\mathbb{F}^n$ : the variable, if real, will be usually called  $x$ , while  $z$  if complex. Correspondingly, we denote by  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$  or  $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^n$  the respective dual variables. We will also use the decompositions  $z = x + iy$  and  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$ , with both  $(x, \xi)$  and  $(y, \eta)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ .

Given two vectors  $v$  and  $w$  in  $\mathbb{C}^m$ , we will denote by  $v \cdot w$  the usual scalar product in  $\mathbb{C}^m$  and by  $|v|$  the usual norm of a vector in  $\mathbb{C}^m$ : namely,

$$v \cdot w = \sum_{j=1}^m v_j \overline{w_j} \quad \text{and} \quad |v|^2 = v \cdot v.$$

On the contrary, given an infinite-dimensional Banach space  $X$ , we denote by  $\|\cdot\|_X$  its norm and, if  $X$  is Hilbert, by  $(\cdot, \cdot)_X$  its scalar product.

The symbol  $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{F})$  refers to the set of all  $m \times m$  matrices whose components belong to  $\mathbb{F}$ , equipped with the norm  $|\cdot|_{\mathcal{M}}$  defined by

$$|A|_{\mathcal{M}} := \sup_{|v|=1} |Av| \equiv \sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{|Av|}{|v|}.$$

If  $A$  is self-adjoint (more in general, if it is a normal matrix), we also have

$$|A|_{\mathcal{M}} \equiv \sup_{|v|=1} |Av \cdot v|$$

Finally, given two self-adjoint matrices  $A$  and  $B$  belonging to  $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{C})$ , we say that  $A \leq B$  if the inequality  $Av \cdot v \leq Bv \cdot v$  holds true for all  $v \in \mathbb{C}^m$ .

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we present our work setting and we recall some basic results which we will need in the course of our study.

### 2.1 Basic definitions and hypotheses

On an infinite strip  $[0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n$ , for some time  $T > 0$  and  $n \geq 1$ , we consider the  $m \times m$  (with  $m \geq 1$ ) linear first order system

$$(4) \quad Lu(t, x) = \partial_t u(t, x) + \sum_{j=1}^n A_j(t) \partial_j u(t, x).$$

Namely, we suppose  $u(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and, for all  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , the matrices  $A_j(t) \in \mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{R})$ .

We immediately introduce the symbol  $A$  associated to the operator  $L$ : for all  $(t, \xi) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$(5) \quad A(t, \xi) := \sum_{j=1}^n \xi^j A_j(t).$$

Then, for all  $(t, \xi)$ , the matrix  $A(t, \xi)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{R})$ . Let  $(\lambda_j(t, \xi))_{1 \leq j \leq m} \subset \mathbb{C}$  denote the family of its eigenvalues at any point  $(t, \xi)$ .

We recall the following definitions (see e.g. [15], Chapter 2).

**Definition 2.1.** (i) We say that system (4) is *hyperbolic* if, for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and all  $\xi \neq 0$ , the eigenvalues of  $A(t, \xi)$  are all real:  $(\lambda_j)_{1 \leq j \leq m} \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

- (ii) System (4) is *hyperbolic with constant multiplicities* if, for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and all  $\xi \neq 0$ , the eigenvalues of  $A(t, \xi)$  are real and semi-simple, with constant multiplicities.

We recall that a (possibly complex) eigenvalue is called *semi-simple* if its algebraic and geometric multiplicities coincide; a matrix is semi-simple if it is diagonalizable in the complex sense.

A particular case of hyperbolicity with constant multiplicities is when the operator is *strictly hyperbolic*, i.e. when all the eigenvalues are real and distinct (constant multiplicities equal to 1).

In what follows, we are going to consider a more general assumption than hyperbolicity with constant multiplicities. More precisely, we require that the system is *uniformly microlocally symmetrizable* in the sense of Métivier (see [15], Chapter 7). The word *uniformly* here refers to  $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n$  (see also Section 4 of [16]).

**Definition 2.2.** Operator  $L$ , defined in (4), is a *uniformly microlocally symmetrizable hyperbolic system* if there exists a  $m \times m$  matrix  $S(t, \xi)$ , homogeneous of degree 0 in  $\xi$ , such that:

- for almost every  $t$ , the map  $\xi \mapsto S(t, \xi)$  is  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  for  $\xi \neq 0$ ;
- for any point  $(t, \xi)$ , the matrix  $S(t, \xi)$  is self-adjoint;
- there exist constants  $0 < \lambda \leq \Lambda$  such that  $\lambda \text{Id} \leq S(t, \xi) \leq \Lambda \text{Id}$  for any  $(t, \xi)$ ;
- for any point  $(t, \xi)$ , the matrix  $S(t, \xi) A(t, \xi)$  is self-adjoint.

The matrix valued function  $S(t, \xi)$  is called a *(bounded) microlocal symmetrizer* for system (4).

Remark that, by definition,  $S(t, \nu)$  is a smooth, and in particular continuous, function of  $\nu \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ . No additional regularity is demanded on the time variable at this level: one just requires an  $L^\infty$  bound.

Now, we turn our attention to the coefficients of  $L$ : we suppose that, for all  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , the matrix-valued functions  $A_j$  are  $L^1$  in the time variable. More precisely, we require that

$$(6) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \|A_j\|_{L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{R}))} = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^T |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt < +\infty.$$

Of course, since we are in finite dimension, this is equivalent to ask a similar property on each component of the matrices  $A_j$ .

We conclude this part by pointing out a relevant fact about microlocal symmetrizability. It will be useful especially in Section 4 below. It is just an easy remark, but we were not able to find any reference about this property: it seems important to us to clearly state it.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let the operator  $L$  be defined as in (4). Then  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, with bounded symmetrizer  $S$ , if and only if the adjoint operator*

$$(7) \quad L^* v(t, x) = -\partial_t v(t, x) - \sum_{j=1}^n A_j^*(t) \partial_j v(t, x)$$

*is microlocally symmetrizable, with symmetrizer  $S^{-1}$ .*

*Proof.* We start by noticing that, up to a minus sign, the symbol of  $L^*$  is the matrix

$$A^*(t, \xi) := \sum_{j=1}^n \xi^j A_j^*(t).$$

On the other hand, it is straightforward to check that also  $S^{-1}$  fulfills all the properties of Definition 2.2 (with constants  $\Lambda^{-1} \leq \lambda^{-1}$ ), up to the last one. Hence, we have only to verify that  $S^{-1} A^*$  is self-adjoint.

Now, we remark that we can express the condition  $(SA)^* = SA$  in the equivalent form  $A^* = SAS^{-1}$ . But one easily has

$$A^* = SAS^{-1} \iff A = S^{-1}A^*S,$$

which again is the same as writing  $S^{-1}A^* = AS^{-1}$ . Observing that  $AS^{-1} = (S^{-1}A^*)^*$  completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Remark 2.4.** The previous result holds true even when the coefficients of  $L$  depend both on time and space variables, and the adjoint operator becomes

$$L^*v(t, x) = -\partial_t v(t, x) - \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j (A_j^*(t, x) \partial_j v(t, x)).$$

## 2.2 Tools

We collect here some fundamental results, which will reveal to be fundamental in the sequel.

First of all, let us introduce additional notations for some relevant functional spaces. Let  $\Omega$  be an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ; then:

- $\mathcal{H}$  denotes the space of entire functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- $\mathcal{A}(\Omega)$  denotes the space of real analytic functions on  $\Omega$ ;
- $\mathcal{H}'$  is the space of holomorphic functionals over  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ;
- $\mathcal{A}'(\Omega)$  is the space of real analytic functionals over  $\Omega$ .

When  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ , we will omit it from the notation. In addition, we will indicate by  $\text{supp } u$  the support of a functional  $u \in \mathcal{A}'(\Omega)$ .

We recall that, given a compact set  $K \subset \Omega$ , we say that  $\text{supp } u \subset K$  if, for all open neighborhood  $U \subset \Omega$  of  $K$  and all sequence  $(f^k)_k \subset \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$  such that  $f^k \rightarrow 0$  in  $\mathcal{A}(U)$ , then one has  $\langle u, f^k \rangle \rightarrow 0$ .

The symbol  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}' \times \mathcal{H}}$  refers to the duality product for the space  $\mathcal{H}' \times \mathcal{H}$ , and an analogous notation will be used for  $\mathcal{A}'(\Omega) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$ . The spaces in the subscript will be omitted whenever they are evident from the context.

For a functional  $u \in \mathcal{H}'$ , we denote by  $\widehat{u}$  its Fourier transform: for all  $(z, \zeta) \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$ , one has

$$\widehat{u}(\zeta) := \langle u, h_\zeta \rangle, \quad \text{with} \quad h_\zeta(z) := \exp(-i\zeta \cdot z).$$

For  $u \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{H}')$ , we naturally write  $\widehat{u}(t, \zeta) = \langle u(t), h_\zeta \rangle$  for almost every  $t \in [0, T]$ .

We recall that a real analytic functional  $u$  is *real-valued* if, for any real analytic function  $\varphi$  over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the quantity  $\langle u, \varphi \rangle \in \mathbb{R}$ . Whenever  $u$  is compactly supported, this is equivalent to require that  $\widehat{u}(-\xi) = \overline{\widehat{u}(\xi)}$  for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Fixed some  $r > 0$ , we also set  $B(r)$  to be the ball of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  centered in the origin and of radius  $r$ .

This having been pointed out, let us recall the Paley-Wiener Theorem: the present form is the one stated in [2], Section 1.

**Theorem 2.5.** (I) Let  $u \in \mathcal{H}'$  and  $r > 0$ . Then  $u \in \mathcal{A}'$ , with  $\text{supp } u \subset B(r)$ , if and only if the following condition is verified: for all  $\delta > 0$ , there exists a constant  $C_\delta > 0$  such that

$$|\widehat{u}(\zeta)| \leq C_\delta \exp(\delta |\xi| + (r + \delta) |\eta|)$$

for all  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $|\zeta| \geq 1$ .



(II) Let  $u \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}')$ , with support contained in the ball  $B(r)$ . Then, for all  $\delta > 0$ , there exists a constant  $C_\delta > 0$  such that

$$\int_0^T |\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| dt \leq C_\delta \exp(\delta |\xi| + (r + \delta) |\eta|)$$

for all  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $|\zeta| \geq 1$ .

The previous theorem will be the fundamental tool to investigate propagation of the support of the initial data, and then to derive the finite propagation speed property (see Subsection 3 below).

On the other hand, in order to make this argument consistent, we need a general existence result for operator (4). This is provided by the following statement, which is in the same spirit of the celebrated Cauchy-Kovalevska Theorem. We refer to Theorem 1 of [2] and Theorem 17.2 of [20] for analogous results.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined in (4), and suppose that its coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  belong to the space  $L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{M}_m(\mathbb{R}))$  (so that (6) is verified).*

*Then, for any  $u_0 \in \mathcal{H}'$  and  $f \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{H}')$ , the Cauchy problem*

$$(8) \quad \begin{cases} Lu = f \\ u|_{t=0} = u_0, \end{cases}$$

*admits a unique solution  $u \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{H}')$ .*

The proof is analogous to the one given in Appendix B of [2], and it is based on a Picard iteration scheme. Actually, in that paper the result is stated for scalar wave operators, but the proof consists in recasting the equation as a first order system. Here, the only difference is the regularity in time of the solution, which is obtained by an inspection of the equation  $Lu = f$ .

**Remark 2.7.** We remark that *no hyperbolicity* hypotheses are needed on the system, for the general existence result in the space of holomorphic functionals.

### 3 Finite propagation speed and related results

In the present section we state and prove our main result, concerning *local existence* and *finite propagation speed* for hyperbolic systems which are microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense specified by Definition 2.2.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer.*

*Suppose also that one of the following conditions holds true:*

- (i) *either the map  $(t, \nu) \mapsto S(t, \nu)$  is continuous on  $[0, T] \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , or*
- (ii) *the coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  are uniformly bounded, i.e. there exists  $C_0 > 0$  such that*

$$(9) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} \leq C_0.$$

Finally, assume that  $u_0 \in \mathcal{A}'$  and  $f \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}')$ , with  $\text{supp } u_0$  and  $\text{supp } f(t)$  (for almost every  $t$ ) contained in the ball  $B(r_0)$ , for some radius  $r_0 > 0$ .

Then the solution  $u$  to problem (8) belongs to  $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A}')$ . Moreover, defined the quantities

$$\alpha(t) := \sum_{j=1}^n |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} \quad \text{and} \quad r(t) := r_0 + 2\sqrt{\Lambda} \int_0^t \alpha(\tau) d\tau,$$

then, for all  $t \in [0, T]$ , one has that  $\text{supp } u(t) \subset B(r(t))$ .

**Remark 3.2.** Notice that the hypotheses of the previous theorem are invariant under considering the adjoint problem (recall Lemma 2.3).

The rest of the present section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 3.1. Let us recall that the existence of a unique solution  $u \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{H}')$  to problem (8) is guaranteed by Theorem 2.6 above. Then, thanks to Theorem 2.5, we have just to establish suitable energy estimates for  $u$ .

The strategy is the following: first of all, we smooth out the symmetrizer with respect to the time variable. Then, we define an approximate energy function in the Phase Space, for which we show precise estimates. Finally, we conclude by linking the Fourier variable with the approximation parameter and by applying Paley-Wiener Theorem.

Before starting, let us state an important remark.

**Remark 3.3.** Notice that, since the coefficients just depend on time, the dual variable is treated as a parameter at this level. In particular, we do not exploit the  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  regularity of the symmetrizer with respect to  $\xi$ .

More precisely, as for the dependence on the dual variable, we will use the following facts only:

1. the continuity for  $\nu \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , in the next paragraph, in order to have a uniform decay of the function  $\omega_S$  (see its definition below);
2. hypothesis (i) of Theorem 3.1, in Subsection 3.3 below, in order to get the final estimate without knowing *a priori*  $L^\infty$  bounds on the coefficients.

### 3.1 Approximation of the coefficients

First of all, let us extend the function  $S(\cdot, \xi)$  (for any fixed  $\xi \neq 0$ ) out of  $[0, T]$ , by taking its mean value on this interval, i.e. the quantity

$$\mu_S(\xi) := \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt.$$

For convenience, we keep the notation  $S(t, \xi)$  even to denote the symmetrizer extended to all times  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Furthermore, for  $0 < \sigma < T$ , let us introduce the function

$$\omega_S(\xi, \sigma) := \sup_{\tau \in [0, \sigma]} \int_0^{T-\sigma} |S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt.$$

Notice that,  $S$  being smooth on the unitary sphere  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  of the Phase Space, the function  $\omega_S(\xi, \sigma) \rightarrow 0$  for  $\sigma \rightarrow 0$ , uniformly for  $|\xi| = 1$ .

Thanks to Proposition 1 of [2] (see Appendix D of that paper), for all  $0 \leq \sigma \leq T/2$  and all  $\xi \neq 0$  fixed, the following estimate holds true:

$$(10) \quad \sup_{\tau \in [0, \sigma]} \int_0^T |S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt \leq 2 \left( \omega_S(\xi, \sigma) + \frac{\sigma}{T} \int_0^T |S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt \right).$$

Now, for reasons which will become clear in a while, we need to smooth out the symmetrizer by convolution with a mollifier kernel. More precisely, we take an even function  $\rho \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , with  $0 \leq \rho \leq 1$ , whose support is contained in the interval  $[-1, 1]$  and such that  $\int \rho(t) dt = 1$ ; then we define the family

$$\rho_\varepsilon(t) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \rho\left(\frac{t}{\varepsilon}\right) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in ]0, 1].$$

Next, for all  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1]$  we set

$$(11) \quad S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) := (\rho_\varepsilon *_t S(\cdot, \xi))(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_\tau} \rho_\varepsilon(t - \tau) S(\tau, \xi) d\tau,$$

which is a smooth function both of  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$  (separately).

The family  $(S_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon$  enjoys the following properties.

**Lemma 3.4.** 1. For each  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1]$ , the matrix  $S_\varepsilon$  is still self-adjoint, positive definite and bounded. In particular, for any  $(t, \xi)$  one has

$$\lambda \leq S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) \leq \Lambda,$$

for the same positive constants  $\lambda$  and  $\Lambda$  pertaining to the symmetrizer  $S$ .

2. One also has the following estimates:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt &\leq C \left( \omega_S(\xi, \varepsilon) + \varepsilon \sqrt{\Lambda} \right) \\ \int_0^T |\partial_t S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt &\leq \frac{C}{\varepsilon} \left( \omega_S(\xi, \varepsilon) + \varepsilon \sqrt{\Lambda} \right) \end{aligned}$$

for a constant  $C > 0$  just depending on the  $L^1$  norms of  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$ .

*Proof.* The properties stated in point 1. are straightforward. So, let us focus on the inequalities of point 2. in the previous statement: we start by proving the first one.

From the definition of  $S_\varepsilon$ , one easily infers

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt &= \int_0^T \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left| \int_{|\tau| \leq \varepsilon} \rho(\tau/\varepsilon) (S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)) d\tau \right|_{\mathcal{M}} dt \\ &\leq \|\rho\|_{L^1} \sup_{\tau \in [0, \varepsilon]} \int_0^T |S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Now, it is just a matter of using estimate (10) and the uniform bound  $|S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \leq \sqrt{\Lambda}$ ; then, the inequality immediately follows.

Concerning the estimate involving  $\partial_t S_\varepsilon$ , we argue in a very similar way. Namely, using the fact that  $\int \rho' = 0$ , we can write

$$\int_0^T |\partial_t S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt = \int_0^T \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \left| \int_{|\tau| \leq \varepsilon} \rho'(\tau/\varepsilon) (S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)) d\tau \right|_{\mathcal{M}} dt;$$

the right-hand side of this identity can be bounded as done above, giving us

$$\int_0^T |\partial_t S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \|\rho'\|_{L^1} \sup_{\tau \in [0, \varepsilon]} \int_0^T |S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt.$$

Now, one concludes thanks to (10) again. □

**Remark 3.5.** Observe that, from point (1) of the previous lemma, we easily deduce the inequality  $|S_\varepsilon^{-1}|_{\mathcal{M}} \leq 1/\sqrt{\lambda}$ .

### 3.2 Energy estimates

Let  $u \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{H}')$  be the solution to problem (8), whose existence is guaranteed by Theorem 2.6. Our goal is to apply Theorem 2.5, after establishing suitable energy estimates for  $u$ .

To this end, we start by proving a preliminary result.

**Proposition 3.6.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer. Finally, for  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , define the function*

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(t, \zeta) := \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |\partial_t S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \alpha(t) |\xi| + 2\sqrt{\lambda} \alpha(t) |\eta|,$$

where  $\alpha$  is the quantity defined in the statement of Theorem 3.1 and  $(S_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon$  is the smooth approximation introduced in (11).

Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that, for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and all  $|\zeta| \geq 1$ , one has the estimate

$$|\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| \leq C \frac{\sqrt{\Lambda}}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \exp\left(\int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon(\tau, \zeta) d\tau\right) \left(|\widehat{u}_0(\zeta)| + \int_0^T |\widehat{f}(\tau, \zeta)| d\tau\right).$$

where  $u$  is the solution to (8), given by Theorem 2.6.

**Remark 3.7.** Notice that the previous proposition holds true even without the additional hypotheses (i)-(ii) of Theorem 3.1. Indeed, these conditions are needed just in the final part of the proof, to control  $\varphi_\varepsilon$  in the argument of the exponential factor.

*Proof of Proposition 3.6.* Let us introduce an approximated energy for  $u$ , defined in Fourier variables: for  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$ , we set

$$(12) \quad E_\varepsilon(t, \zeta) := S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) \widehat{u}(t, \zeta) \cdot \widehat{u}(t, \zeta).$$

We remark that it is important to keep  $S_\varepsilon$  depending just on  $\text{Re } \zeta = \xi$ , not to lose self-adjointness<sup>1</sup> and symmetrizability<sup>2</sup> properties.

Let us point out that, for all  $(t, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $\text{Re } \zeta = \xi \neq 0$ , one has

$$(13) \quad \lambda |\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)|^2 \leq E_\varepsilon(t, \zeta) \leq \Lambda |\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)|^2.$$

Next, let us compute the time derivative of the approximated energy  $E_\varepsilon$ . Keep in mind that, from equation  $Lu = f$ , if we pass in the Phase Space we get

$$(14) \quad \partial_t \widehat{u}(t, \zeta) + i A(t, \zeta) \widehat{u}(t, \zeta) = \widehat{f}(t, \zeta),$$

where, by (5), we have denoted  $A(t, \zeta) = A(t, \xi) + iA(t, \eta)$ . Therefore, differentiating (12) with respect to time we find

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t E_\varepsilon &= \partial_t S_\varepsilon \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u} + 2 \text{Re} (S_\varepsilon \partial_t \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}) \\ &= \partial_t S_\varepsilon \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u} + 2 \text{Re} (S_\varepsilon \widehat{f} \cdot \widehat{u}) + 2 \text{Re} (-i S_\varepsilon A \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}). \end{aligned}$$

Recall that, in the last term,  $S_\varepsilon = S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)$  while  $A = A(t, \zeta)$ .

We start estimating each term in the right-hand side of the last equation. First of all, applying Cauchy-Schwarz inequality to the  $S_\varepsilon$  scalar product, we find

$$\left| \text{Re} (S_\varepsilon \widehat{f} \cdot \widehat{u}) \right| \leq (S_\varepsilon \widehat{f} \cdot \widehat{f})^{1/2} (S_\varepsilon \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u})^{1/2}$$

<sup>1</sup>For instance, already for  $m = 1$ , take the function  $S(\xi) = \xi/|\xi|$ : then  $S(\zeta)$  is well-defined, but it is no more self-adjoint.

<sup>2</sup>We know that  $S(t, \xi)$  is a symmetrizer for  $A(t, \xi)$ , but this does not imply that  $S(t, \zeta)$  is a symmetrizer for  $A(t, \zeta) = A(t, \xi) + iA(t, \eta)$ .

which immediately implies the bound

$$(15) \quad \left| 2 \operatorname{Re} \left( S_\varepsilon \widehat{f} \cdot \widehat{u} \right) \right| \leq 2 \sqrt{\Lambda} |\widehat{f}| (E_\varepsilon)^{1/2}.$$

Let us consider now the term  $\partial_t S_\varepsilon \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}$ : writing  $\partial_t S_\varepsilon = \partial_t S_\varepsilon (S_\varepsilon)^{-1} S_\varepsilon$  and recalling Remark 3.5, we easily get the estimate

$$(16) \quad |\partial_t S_\varepsilon \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}| \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |\partial_t S_\varepsilon|_{\mathcal{M}} E_\varepsilon.$$

Finally, we deal with the last term which appears in the expression for  $\partial_t E_\varepsilon$ . Decomposing  $A(t, \zeta) = A(t, \xi) + iA(t, \eta)$  and recalling that  $S(t, \xi) A(t, \xi)$  is self-adjoint, we infer

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} (-i S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) A(t, \zeta) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}) &= \operatorname{Re} (-i S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) A(t, \xi) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}) + \operatorname{Re} (S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) A(t, \eta) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}) \\ &= \operatorname{Re} (-i (S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)) A(t, \xi) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}) + \operatorname{Re} (S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) A(t, \eta) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u}). \end{aligned}$$

The former term in the right-hand side of this last equality can be controlled by the quantity

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \sum_j |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} |\xi| E_\varepsilon;$$

as for the latter, instead, we have

$$|\operatorname{Re} (S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) A(t, \eta) \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u})| \leq \sqrt{\Lambda} \sum_j |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} |\eta| E_\varepsilon.$$

Putting these last inequalities together gives us

$$(17) \quad \begin{aligned} |2 \operatorname{Re} (-i S_\varepsilon A \widehat{u} \cdot \widehat{u})| &\leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \sum_j |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} |\xi| E_\varepsilon + \\ &\quad + 2 \sqrt{\Lambda} \sum_j |A_j(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} |\eta| E_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, from (15), (16) and (17) we deduce the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t E_\varepsilon &\leq 2 \sqrt{\Lambda} |\widehat{f}| (E_\varepsilon)^{1/2} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |\partial_t S_\varepsilon|_{\mathcal{M}} E_\varepsilon + \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \alpha(t) |\xi| + 2 \sqrt{\Lambda} \alpha(t) |\eta| \right) E_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Now, if we define  $e_\varepsilon(t, \zeta) = (E_\varepsilon(t, \zeta))^{1/2}$ , an application of Gronwall Lemma to the previous inequality allows us to find

$$e_\varepsilon(t, \zeta) \leq e^{\int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon(\tau, \zeta) d\tau} \left( e_\varepsilon(0, \zeta) + 2 \sqrt{\Lambda} \int_0^t |\widehat{f}(\tau, \zeta)| d\tau \right);$$

thanks to (13), we obtain the desired estimate for  $\operatorname{Re} \zeta \neq 0$ .

On the other hand, setting  $S(t, 0) = 0$ , the same estimate still holds true when  $\operatorname{Re} \zeta = \xi = 0$ . Indeed, it is enough to multiply equation (14) by  $\widehat{u}$  and use Gronwall inequality again, recalling that  $\Lambda/\lambda \geq 1$ .  $\square$

### 3.3 End of the proof

Let us come back to the proof of Theorem 3.1.

Our starting point is the inequality established in Proposition 3.6 above. By our hypotheses, combining it with Theorem 2.5, we obtain the following property: for any  $\delta > 0$  fixed, there exists a constant  $C_\delta > 0$  such that

$$|\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| \leq C C_\delta \frac{\sqrt{\Lambda}}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \exp\left(\int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon(\tau, \zeta) d\tau\right) \exp(\delta |\xi| + (r_0 + \delta) |\eta|)$$

for any  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $|\zeta| \geq 1$ . So, our next goal is to find suitable bounds for the integral  $\int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon(\tau, \zeta) d\tau$ , or better for the quantities

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_1 &:= \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \int_0^T |\partial_t S_\varepsilon(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} dt \\ \mathcal{I}_2 &:= \frac{2|\xi|}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \int_0^T |S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} \alpha(t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Before proceeding, let us make the fundamental choice

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{|\zeta|}.$$

We also remark that, without loss of generality, we can limit ourselves to consider the case  $\xi \neq 0$ , the instance  $\xi = 0$  being actually simple (recall that we have set  $S(t, \xi) = 0$  when  $\xi = 0$ ).

First of all, from item 2. of Lemma 3.4 we immediately deduce the estimate

$$(18) \quad \mathcal{I}_1 \leq C (|\zeta| \omega_S(\xi, 1/|\zeta|) + 1),$$

for a new positive constant  $C$  also depending on  $\lambda$  and  $\Lambda$ .

As for  $\mathcal{I}_2$ , let us start by assuming hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 3.1 for a while. By Lemma 3.4 again, we get

$$(19) \quad \mathcal{I}_2 \leq C |\xi| (\omega_S(\xi, 1/|\zeta|) + |\zeta|^{-1}) \leq C (|\zeta| \omega_S(\xi, 1/|\zeta|) + 1),$$

where, this time, the constant  $C$  depends on  $\lambda$ ,  $\Lambda$  and  $C_0$ .

Thanks to (18) and (19), we find, for new suitable constants  $C$  and  $C_\delta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| &\leq C_\delta \exp(C |\zeta| \omega_S(\xi, 1/|\zeta|)) \exp\left(\delta |\xi| + (r(t) + \delta) |\eta|\right) \\ &\leq C_\delta \mathcal{E}_\delta(\zeta) \exp\left(2\delta |\xi| + (r(t) + 2\delta) |\eta|\right) \end{aligned}$$

where, after setting  $\widetilde{\omega}_S(1/|\zeta|) := \sup_{|\nu|=1} \omega_S(\nu, 1/|\zeta|)$ , we have defined

$$\mathcal{E}_\delta(\zeta) := \exp\left(C (\widetilde{\omega}_S(1/|\zeta|) - \delta) |\zeta|\right).$$

Now, recalling that  $\widetilde{\omega}_S(1/|\zeta|) \rightarrow 0$  for  $|\zeta| \rightarrow +\infty$ , one easily deduces that the function  $\mathcal{E}_\delta(\zeta)$  is bounded on  $\{|\zeta| \geq 1\}$ , for all  $\delta > 0$  fixed. Hence the previous inequality becomes

$$|\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| \leq C' C_\delta \exp\left(2\delta |\xi| + (r(t) + 2\delta) |\eta|\right),$$

for a new positive constant  $C'$ . Keeping in mind Theorem 2.5, this estimate concludes the proof of Theorem 3.1 under hypothesis (ii).

Under hypothesis (i), the only thing which changes is that inequality (19) does not hold true anymore. Then, we need a new control on the  $\mathcal{I}_2$  term.

First of all, we remark that, being  $S$  continuous on the compact set  $[0, T] \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , it is uniformly continuous. So, for  $\delta > 0$  fixed above (given by Paley-Wiener Theorem), there exists an  $\varepsilon_\delta > 0$  such that, if  $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_\delta$ , then

$$|S_\varepsilon(t, \xi) - S(t, \xi)|_{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left| \int_{|\tau| \leq \varepsilon} \rho(\tau/\varepsilon) (S(t + \tau, \xi) - S(t, \xi)) d\tau \right|_{\mathcal{M}} \leq C \delta.$$

Remark that  $\varepsilon_\delta$  and  $C$  are both independent of  $\xi$ .

Therefore, if  $|\zeta| \geq 1/\varepsilon_\delta$  one gathers

$$\mathcal{I}_2 \leq C \alpha(T) |\xi| \delta \leq C \delta |\xi|,$$

where again  $C$  depends on  $\lambda$ . On the other hand, whenever  $|\zeta| \leq 1/\varepsilon_\delta$ , then it is easy to see that  $\mathcal{I}_2 \leq C$ , for some constant  $C = C(\delta)$  depending also on  $\delta$  (and on  $\Lambda, \lambda$ ).

In the end, putting this inequality together with (18), we arrive at the bound

$$|\widehat{u}(t, \zeta)| \leq C_\delta \mathcal{E}_\delta(\zeta) \exp\left((2 + C)\delta |\xi| + (r(t) + 2\delta) |\eta|\right),$$

which allows us to conclude as before.

Theorem 3.1 is now completely proved.

## 4 Local theory in analytic functional classes

The main goal of the present paragraph is to derive local uniqueness of solutions to problem (8), where  $L$  is the operator defined in (4).

First of all, we need the counterpart of Theorem 3.1 for data which are not compactly supported in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We limit ourselves to state an existence result in the space of real-analytic functions, which is the only required part for our next study.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer.*

*Suppose also that either condition (i) or condition (ii) of Theorem 3.1 is fulfilled.*

*Finally, assume that  $u_0 \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $f \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$ .*

*Then, there exists a solution  $u$  to problem (8), with  $u \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$ .*

The proof of the previous statement goes along the main lines of the proof to Theorem 4 in [2], and so it is omitted here. It is based on a duality argument (keep in mind Lemma 2.3 stated above) and the application of Theorem 3.1 proved before.

**Remark 4.2.** We point out that, if  $u_0$  and  $f$  are real valued functionals (or functions), then the corresponding solution  $u$ , given by Theorem 3.1 (respectively, by Theorem 4.1), is also real valued.

The proof of this fact is straightforward. In the  $\mathcal{A}'$  case, since  $u_0$  and  $f$  are real valued, then both  $\widehat{u}(t, \xi)$  and  $\overline{\widehat{u}(t, -\xi)}$  are solutions to (14) with  $\eta = 0$  (i.e.  $\zeta = \xi$ ). Hence, the conclusion follows by the uniqueness part in Theorem 2.6. In the  $\mathcal{A}$  case, one has to argue by duality, as in [2] (see Remark 6 of that paper).

Thanks to the previous theorem, we can get a result on *continuous dependence* of the solution on the data.

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer.*

*Suppose also that either condition (i) or condition (ii) of Theorem 3.1 is fulfilled.*

*Let  $r_0 > 0$  a real number, and denote*

$$(20) \quad \varrho(t) := r_0 - 2\sqrt{\Lambda} \int_0^t \alpha(\tau) d\tau,$$

*where the function  $\alpha(t)$  is defined in Theorem 3.1. Set  $B_0 = B(r_0)$  and  $B_t = B(\varrho(t))$ .*

*Finally, take sequences  $(u_0^k)_k \subset \mathcal{A}$  and  $(f^k)_k \subset L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$ , and let  $(u^k)_k \subset \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$  be the sequence of corresponding solutions, given by Theorem 4.1.*

*If  $u_0^k \rightarrow 0$  in  $\mathcal{A}(B_0)$  and  $f^k \rightarrow 0$  in  $L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}(B_0))$ , then one has*

$$u^k \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}(B_t)),$$

*for all  $t \in ]0, T]$  such that  $\varrho(t) > 0$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $t \in ]0, T]$  such that  $\varrho(t) > 0$ . Let  $g \in L^1([0, t]; \mathcal{A}'(B_t))$  and let  $v \in \mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}')$  the solution of the dual system

$$-\partial_t v(\tau, x) - \sum_{j=1}^n A_j^*(\tau) \partial_j v(\tau, x) = g(\tau, x) \quad \text{on} \quad [0, t] \times \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with datum  $v(t) = 0$ . Remark that the existence and uniqueness of  $v$  is guaranteed by Theorem 3.1 (keep in mind also Remark 3.2 and Lemma 2.3), which in addition implies  $\text{supp } v \subset B_0$ .

Applying  $u^k$  to the previous expression and integrating in time, we find

$$\int_0^t \langle g, u^k \rangle d\tau = \int_0^t \langle v, f^k \rangle d\tau + \langle v(0), u_0^k \rangle \longrightarrow 0$$

for  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ , due to our hypotheses. This convergence holds true for all  $g$  belonging to the space  $L^1([0, t]; \mathcal{A}'(B_t))$ , and it is uniform on bounded subsets  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $L^1([0, t]; \mathcal{A}'(B_t))$ . Indeed, this immediately follows from Theorem 3.1: if  $g \in \mathcal{B}$ , then the family of corresponding solutions  $v_g$  to the adjoint system is bounded in the space  $\mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}')$ , and this is still enough to recover the previous convergence for  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ .

In the end, we deduce that  $u^k \longrightarrow 0$  in  $L^\infty([0, t]; \mathcal{A}(B_t))$ , and then also in  $\mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}(B_t))$  (recalling that  $u^k$  solves  $Lu^k = f^k$ ).

The lemma is now proved.  $\square$

Thanks to the previous lemma, we can derive a result on the *domain of dependence*, which yields to *local uniqueness* of the solution to problem (8).

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer.*

*Suppose also that either condition (i) or condition (ii) of Theorem 3.1 is fulfilled.*

*Let  $u_0 \in \mathcal{A}'$  and  $f \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}')$ , and let  $u \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A}')$  be the corresponding solution to problem (8) (given by Theorem 3.1).*

*Assume that  $u_0(x) \equiv 0$  and  $f(t, x) \equiv 0$  for  $|x - x_0| < r_0$ , for some  $r_0 > 0$  and point  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  fixed. Then*

$$u(t, x) \equiv 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad |x - x_0| < r_0 - 2\sqrt{\Lambda} \int_0^t \alpha(\tau) d\tau,$$

*for all  $t \in ]0, T]$  such that  $\int_0^t \alpha(\tau) d\tau < r_0/(2\sqrt{\Lambda})$ .*



*Proof.* Let  $\varrho(t)$  be defined as in Lemma 4.3, and let  $t \in ]0, T]$  such that  $\varrho(t) > 0$ . We want to prove that  $u(t) = 0$  in  $\mathcal{A}'(B_t(x_0))$ , where we have denoted  $B_t(x_0) = B(x_0, \varrho(t))$  the ball of center  $x_0$  and radius  $\varrho(t)$ .

This is equivalent to show the convergence

$$(21) \quad \langle u(t), w^k \rangle \longrightarrow 0$$

for all sequence  $(w^k)_k \subset \mathcal{A}$  such that (for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ )

$$w^k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \mathcal{A}\left(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \overline{B(x_0, \varrho(t) - \varepsilon)}\right).$$

Then, fix a sequence  $(w^k)_k$  as above, and let  $v^k$  be the corresponding solution to the adjoint problem  $L^*v^k = 0$  on  $[0, t] \times \mathbb{R}^n$ , with  $L^*$  defined in (7), and initial datum  $v^k(t) = w^k$ .

Thanks to Lemma 4.3, we deduce that  $v^k \rightarrow 0$  in  $\mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}(U))$ , where, for notational convenience, we have set  $U := \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \overline{B(x_0, r_0 - \varepsilon)}$ .

On the other hand, let us apply  $u$  to the system  $L^*v^k = 0$ , and integrate over  $[0, t]$ : taking into account the initial conditions, direct computations lead us to

$$- \langle u(t), w^k \rangle + \langle u_0, v^k(0) \rangle + \int_0^t \langle f, v^k \rangle d\tau = 0.$$

Property (21) follows then from the hypotheses on  $u_0$  and  $f$ .  $\square$

To conclude, we show a *local existence and uniqueness* result in the space of analytic functions.

**Theorem 4.5.** *Let  $L$  be the operator defined by formula (4), with coefficients  $(A_j)_j$  verifying property (6). Suppose that  $L$  is microlocally symmetrizable, in the sense of Definition 2.2, and let  $S$  be its symmetrizer.*

*Suppose also that either condition (i) or condition (ii) of Theorem 3.1 is fulfilled.*

*Fix a point  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and a real number  $r_0 > 0$ , and denote  $B_0 = B(x_0, r_0)$ . Defined the function  $\varrho$  as in (20), set also  $B_t = B(x_0, \varrho(t))$ .*

*Finally, assume that  $u_0 \in \mathcal{A}(B_0)$  and  $f \in L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}(B_0))$ .*

*Then, there exists a unique solution  $u$  to problem (8) on the conoid*

$$\Gamma := \left\{ (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^n \mid \varrho(t) > 0, |x - x_0| < \varrho(t) \right\},$$

*which belongs to the space  $\mathcal{C}([0, t]; \mathcal{A}(B_t))$  for any time  $t \in [0, T]$  such that  $\varrho(t) > 0$ .*

*Proof.* We use the density of  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $\mathcal{A}(B_0)$  (see Appendix E of [2]). So, there exist sequences  $(u_0^k)_k \subset \mathcal{A}$  and  $(f^k)_k \subset L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$  such that

$$u_0^k \longrightarrow u_0 \quad \text{in} \quad \mathcal{A}(B_0) \quad \text{and} \quad f^k \longrightarrow f \quad \text{in} \quad L^1([0, T]; \mathcal{A}(B_0)).$$

For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $u^k \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A})$  be the solution to problem (8), related to the data  $u_0^k$  and  $f^k$ . Recall that, fixed  $k$ , the existence of such a  $u^k$  is guaranteed by Theorem 4.1 here above.

On the other hand, if we apply Lemma 4.3 to the families  $(u_0^k - u_0^h)_{h,k}$  and  $(f^k - f^h)_{h,k}$ , we immediately discover that the sequence of  $(u^k)_k$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{A}(B_t))$ , and hence it converges to some  $u$  in this space. By linearity of the system, it is easy to check that  $u$  is indeed a solution of our problem (8) on the conoid  $\Gamma$ .

The uniqueness of such a solution is a straightforward consequence of Theorem 4.4.

As a matter of fact, let  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are two solutions related to the same data  $u_0$  and  $f$ , verifying the hypotheses of Theorem 4.5. Then, their difference  $\delta u := u_1 - u_2$  belongs to  $\mathcal{A}(B_t)$  (for any  $t$  such that  $\varrho(t) > 0$ ), and hence also to  $\mathcal{A}'$ .

Moreover, by linearity of our system,  $\delta u$  satisfies system (8) with initial datum and external force being both identically 0. Then, from Theorem 4.4 one gets  $\delta u \equiv 0$ .  $\square$

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